

PROCLAMATION

4
4-12-05

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria is committed to the preservation of the health and well-being of every child, and believes that all children deserve a safe and nurturing environment in which to grow up; and

WHEREAS, nationally, there are nearly 800,000 children reported missing each year, and approximately 2.6 million referrals involving 4.5 million children are made to Child Protection Agencies; and

WHEREAS, the month of April is designated as Child Abuse Prevention Month; and

WHEREAS, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the City of Alexandria join in partnership to declare the month of April "Hand in Hand with Children: Guiding and Protecting -- The Blue Ribbon Campaign," to support national and local efforts aimed at educating families and communities about issues of child safety and the perils of missing and exploited children; and

WHEREAS, Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) of Northern Virginia, Alexandria Child Protective Services, Alexandria Police Department, the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office, and other City and community agencies work collaboratively to promote the safety of children through education, public awareness and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, one small way to do this is by participating in the Blue Ribbon Campaign, showing support for children by wearing a blue ribbon throughout the month of April, as a reminder of the seriousness of child abuse and neglect, and missing and exploited children; and

WHEREAS, this year we especially honor our "Heroes"—Linda App, Anna Marie Caulkins, Diane Charles, Carter Flemming, and Dorathea Peters, for their tireless efforts on the Alexandria Child Welfare Partnership, from 2001 to 2004, guiding the Department of Human Services in implementing many initiatives to improve efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of Alexandria's children; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. EUILLE, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby call upon the citizens of the City to join with all of America in observing April as:

**"HAND IN HAND WITH CHILDREN:
THE BLUE RIBBON CAMPAIGN MONTH"**

in the City of Alexandria, and do hereby call upon our citizens to observe the month by reaching out to parents who may need assistance supporting "Blue Ribbon Campaign" activities throughout the community geared toward protecting, honoring and educating children and their families.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 12th day of April 2005.

WILLIAM D. EUILLE MAYOR

*On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia*

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk